



Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
Urban District Council

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
FOR THE YEAR 1945



Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
Urban District Council

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
FOR THE YEAR 1945



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1945

---

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

(1) *Medical Officer of Health (part time) :*

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

(2) *Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (full time) :*

GEORGE E. MARLOW, M. Inst. M. and CY.E., Cert. R.S.I.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the Sanitary State of your District for the year 1945.

My thanks are due to Mr. G. E. Marlow, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable help, without which it would have been impossible for me to compile this report.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McM. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A

### General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	.. .. .	6,190 acres.
Population	.. .. .	5,651
Number of Inhabited Houses		1,774
Rateable Value	.. ..	£35,665
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		£141 0s. 0d.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the Districts are :—Agriculture, Coalmining, Earthenware, Brickmaking, Biscuit making and Soap manufacturing. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

### Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	..	96	52	44
Illegitimate	..	7	4	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		103	56	47
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Birth Rate—18.2 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Birth Rate, 1945—16.1 per 1,000 population.

STILL BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	..	2	2	—
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2	2	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate—.35 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Still Birth Rate, 1945—0.46 per 1,000 population.

### DEATHS.

Total	Male	Female
57	31	26

Death Rate—10.1 per 1,000 population.

England and Wales Death Rate, 1945—11.4 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

		Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	
		Ashby Urban Districts	England and Wales, 1945.
(a)	Abortion with Sepsis ..	0	.25
(b)	Abortion without Sepsis ..	0	.08
(c)	Puerpual Infection ..	0	.24
(d)	Other Maternal Causes ..	0	1.22
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		Total 0	Total 1.79
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	..	2	2	—
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		2	2	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths under 1 year of age—19.5 per 1,000 Live Births.

England and Wales, 1945—46 per 1,000 Live Births.

Deaths occurred from the following diseases during 1944 :—

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	14
Measles (all ages)	..	..	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 yrs.)	..	..	—

### Causes of Death in 1945

				Male	Female	Total
Other Tuberculosis	..	..		1	1	2
Cancer of Buc. Cav. Oesoph. M.						
Uterus F.	..	..	..	0	1	1
Influenza	..	..	..	0	3	3

## Causes of Death in 1945—*continued*

	Male	Female	Total
Cancer (Stomach and Duodenal)	1	2	3
Cancer (all other sites) ..	6	4	10
Diabetes .. ..	1	1	2
Intracranial Vasc. Lesions ..	3	5	8
Heart Disease .. ..	8	4	12
Other Circ. Diseases .. ..	0	1	1
Bronchitis .. ..	2	1	3
Ulcer (Stomach and Duodenal)	1	0	1
Premature Birth .. ..	1	0	1
Congenital Malf: etc. ..	1	1	2
Suicide .. ..	0	1	1
Other Violent Causes .. ..	1	0	1
All other Causes .. ..	4	2	6
	—	—	—
	30	27	57
	==	==	==

## Chief Causes of Death in 1945 :—

Heart Disease 12 ; Cancer (all forms) 14 ; Intracranial vascular lesions 8 ; Bronchitis 3 ; Influenza 3.

The figures for England and Wales are provisional, based on weekly and quarterly returns.

## SECTION B

### Hospitals.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

**General.** Leicester Royal Infirmary, Burton Infirmary, Ashby Cottage Hospital and The County Public Assistance Institutions.

**Infectious Disease.** Hospitals are provided by the Leicestershire Combined Hospitals Committee—Markfield (76 beds), Melton Mowbray (32), Hinckley (23), Blaby (17).

**Smallpox.** Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Syston (15 beds) and Snarestone (23 beds).



**Tuberculosis.** The County Sanatorium at Markfield with 150 beds is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of all types of Tuberculosis. Operations on cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis from the County are performed at Leicester City Isolation Hospital.

A number of institutions including the following are available for the treatment of cases from the County : City General Hospital, Leicester ; Harlow Wood, Orthopaedic Hospital, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire ; Warwickshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Coleshill.

**Maternity.** Provision is made for cases requiring Institutional treatment in the Burton Infirmary and Leicester Royal Infirmary. Ashby Cottage Hospital is much used by residents from your Area and from the surrounding Areas. Fairhaven Nursing and Maternity Home is also available for cases of Midwifery.

**Children.** Children are admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary, Burton Infirmary, Loughborough General Hospital. Ashby Cottage Hospital admit children for the removal of Tonsils and Adenoids. Warwickshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Coleshill, is also available for Orthopaedic Cases.

**Other.** Delicate and ill-nourished children are admitted at the Children's Convalescent Home, Woodhouse Eaves.

Scabies Cases are admitted to Melton Mowbray Public Assistance Institution.

**Laboratory Facilities.** Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the County Council Laboratory, 8 St. Martin's Leicester. The examinations performed on behalf of the District are as follows :

Milk Examinations (Bacteriological) ..	44
Milk for Phosphatase Test .. ..	12
Sputa for T.B. .. ..	4
Swabs for Diphtheria .. ..	1
Urine (General and Bacteriological) ..	1
Urine for T.B. .. ..	1
Miscellaneous .. ..	2
	—
Total .. ..	65
	==

**Emergency Public Health Laboratory.** Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester. Other work such as the examination of blood and faeces for Typhoid and Dysentery is carried out here, material for immunisation is also available here.

**Ambulance Facilities.** Infectious Diseases are removed by Ambulances provided by the Leicestershire Combined Isolation Hospitals Committee.

Non-Infectious Diseases and Civilian accidents. The St. John Ambulance Brigade (Coalville and Church Gresley) provides an Ambulance. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Urban District Council also provides an Ambulance Service.

Colliery accidents are provided with Ambulances maintained by the Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coal Owners Association.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres.** These are provided by the County Council. An Infant Welfare Centre is held every Thursday afternoon in the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The nearest School Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville. An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at Bridge Road, Coalville. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly at Coalville. Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary and Burton Infirmary. Cases of Scabies are treated at Swadlincote Urban District Council Treatment Centre.

**Health Visiting.** This is provided by the County Council, and the work of health visitor, school nurse and tuberculosis visitor is combined in a single appointment. This work is carried out very ably by Miss Seabrook and her reports and willing co-operation are always available. In a Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign persuasion through the health visitor is the most potent form of propaganda.

**Nursing in the Home.** There is a District Nurse resident in the Area.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

**Water Supply.** The whole District is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Committee from the Milton Water Works. There are still a few wells in use. No samples were taken for analysis during the year.

No. of wells closed—Nil. Number of wells cleansed—Nil.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water—1.

Number of parishes with piped water supply :—

(a) From Public Mains—Whole area.

(b) From Private Reservoirs—Nil.

Number of parishes without a piped water supply—Nil.

The quality of the existing supplies is satisfactory. The Water exhibits no plumbo-Solvent properties. It has been necessary on a number of occasions to restrict water supplies owing to a shortage of water at the source of supply. Steps are being taken to obtain additional sources of supply.

No extensions of the Public Water supply were carried out in 1945.

**Post War Proposals.** The extension of Water Mains in Nottingham Road.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—Nil.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st Dec., 1945—147.

Particulars of any extension during the year :—

(a) Sewerage—Nil.

(b) Sewage disposal—Nil.

**Post War Proposals.** The provision of a system of Sewerage for Blackfordby and the extension of Willesley Sewage Disposal Works to deal with Sewage from Blackfordby Village and Westfield Housing Estate.

The extension of Sewers to Leicester Road, New Packington, Upper Packington Road and Nottingham Road and the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works at Packington.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Total number in District on 31st December, 1945 :—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	66
(b)	Pail closets		..	..	57
(c)	Water closets	..	..		1,119

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year.

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(b)	Pail closets	..	..	..	..	Nil.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year : 2.

**Public Cleansing.** House refuse is collected weekly by Council workmen with a covered motor vehicle, and conveyed to a tip where it is deposited in shallow layers, and covered with earth. 62 New Ashbins were provided in place of unsuitable or defective receptacles.

Earth closets, privies, and ashpits are cleansed by Council workmen, the contents being disposed of on arable land, and ploughed in.

At Blackfordby, the removal of house refuse and the cleansing of earth closets and privies is carried out by a Contractor and dealt with in a manner similar to the rest of the District.

**Salvage.** Salvage is collected weekly by the Local Authority. The classes of salvage material collected are paper, rags, bones and scrap iron.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of complaints received during 1945	54
Total number of defects and nuisances discovered	176

### Particulars of Inspections Made

<i>Type of Inspection</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Number of Revisits</i>
Animal Keeping .. ..	5	2
Bakehouses .. ..	6	2
Dairies and Cowsheds .. ..	42	15
Drainage Works .. ..	22	6
Dwelling Houses (all purposes) ..	106	46
Food Premises .. ..	45	15
Offensive Trades .. ..	2	—
Rats and Mice Destruction ..	27	8
Refuse Collection and Disposal ..	56	17
Schools .. ..	4	1

Shops .. .. .	20	6
Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection	12	0
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. .. .	3	4
Verminous Premises and Scabies	8	4
Water Supplies .. .. .	56	29
Workshops, etc. .. .. .	16	12
Other Inspections .. .. .	94	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals .. .. .	524	199
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Results of Notices Sent

### Preliminary Notices

	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1945 ..	4	5
Issued during year .. .. .	51	86
Complied with during year .. .. .	46	84
Statutory action necessary .. .. .	2	2
Outstanding 31st December, 1945 ..	7	5

### Statutory Notices

	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1945 ..	2	0
Issued during year .. .. .	2	2
Complied with during year .. .. .	4	2
Outstanding 31st December, 1945 ..	4	2

Summary Action : Number of summonses issued—Nil. Number of convictions obtained—Nil.

**Shops.** Particulars of action taken during year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

	<i>Outstanding 1st Jan., 1945</i>	<i>Defects found</i>	<i>Defects remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding 31st Dec., 1945</i>
Sanitary				
Conveniences	0	3	3	0
Temperature	0	0	0	0
Ventilation	0	1	1	0



## Camping Sites. Nil.

## Regulated Buildings.

<i>Class of Building</i>	<i>No. in District</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>General Conditions</i>
Common Lodging				
Houses ..	Nil.	0	0	0
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	3	7	2	1
			removed	satisfactory
				2
				unsatisfactory
Canal Boats ..	Nil	0	0	0
Offensive Trades ..	1	2	0	satisfactory

### Eradication of Bed Bugs. Particulars of action taken :—

Number of Council Houses infested .. ..	0
Number of other dwelling houses infested ..	2
Number of houses disinfested .. .. .	2

The disinfection was carried out by the Local Authority by means of fumigation with Cimex and spraying Zaldecide fluid. There were no removals to Council houses during the year.

**Schools.** All the Schools are supplied with Water from the Public Main and all are on the Water Carriage System except Blackfordby Church of England School.

## Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

No. in Area :—

(a) Publicly owned .. ..	1
(b) Privately owned .. ..	Nil.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### Milk Supply :

Cowkeepers—

Number on Register .. .. .	37
Number of Inspections made .. ..	45
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	2
Number of contraventions found during the year ..	12

Number of contraventions remedied during year ..	12
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1945	2

**Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers)—**

Number on Register .. .. .	10
Number of Inspections made .. .. .	12
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	1
Number of contraventions found during year .. .. .	5
Number of contraventions remedied during year ..	6
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1945	0

**Total Contraventions**

<i>Type of</i>	<i>Outstanding from previous year</i>	<i>Found during year</i>	<i>Remedied during year</i>	<i>Outstanding on 31st Dec., 1945</i>
Cleansing	2	10	11	1
Structural				
Alterations	1	5	6	0
Utensils	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	1	1

**Milk Sampling.**

<i>Class of Milk</i>	<i>Total samples taken for bact. exam'n.</i>	<i>Number Satisfactory</i>	<i>Number Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	0	0	0
Accredited	0	0	0
Pasteurised	17	14	3
Ordinary	8	5	3

**The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936—1941.**

Three licences were issued during the year, one for a Pasteurising Plant, one for Supplementary Retail Distribution or Pasteurised Milk and one for a Bottling Licence.

The Pasteurising Plant for which the Licence was issued, was of the Holder type, capacity 100 gallons per hour, hand temperature controlled.

Number of Plants for heating milk not licensed as Pasteurising Plants—Nil.

Number of Authorities issued by Ministry of Food under Regulation 55G :

(a) Heat Treatment—Nil. (b) Sterilisation—Nil.

### Meat and Other Foods.

No. of Regional Slaughter Houses in Area	..	Nil
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		12
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	.. ..	1
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	.. ..	3

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number killed	.. ..	12 pigs
Number inspected	.. ..	12 pigs
Whole carcases condemned	..	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.. ..	Nil
No carcase was found to be affected with Tuberculosis.		

### Meat Stalls.

Number of Inspections	.. ..	Nil
-----------------------	-------	-----

### Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

Number of Inspections	.. ..	28
-----------------------	-------	----

### Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale.

Number of Inspections	.. ..	32
-----------------------	-------	----

### Action taken :—

The following is a list of food condemned and destroyed :—

Meat	.. ..	39 lbs.
Sausage	.. ..	48 lbs.
Bacon	.. ..	112 lbs.
Milk	.. ..	82 tins
Fish	.. ..	127 lbs.
Jam	.. ..	15 jars
Soup	.. ..	156 tins
Vegetables	.. ..	19 tins
Pork Pie	.. ..	13 lbs.
Fruit	.. ..	26 tins
Oranges	.. ..	1 cwt.



## HOUSING.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	86
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	152
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .. .. .	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	0
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation ..	37

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year Without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .	28
---	----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	0
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	0

#### 4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding :

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	7
(2) Number of families dwelling therein .. ..	13
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .. ..	50
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year .. .. .	2
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	2
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	14
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

**Post War Housing.** Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end of year—250.

Programme of New Houses to be erected by the Local Authority :

First year    ..    75.                      Second year    ..    75

**Preparation of Housing Sites.** Sites for 170 Houses have been acquired and contracts entered into for the construction of Roads, Sewers and Water Mains.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1944.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Final numbers after Correction</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever    ..	2	2	0
Diphtheria    ..    ..	0	1	0
Acute Pneumonia    ..	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia    ..	1	0	0
Measles    ..    ..	40	0	0
	—	—	—
	43	3	0
	==	==	==

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>
0 - 1    ..    ..	0	1	0
1 - 3    ..    ..	0	10	0
3 - 5    ..    ..	0	4	0
5 - 10    ..    ..	2	20	0
10 - 15    ..    ..	0	1	0
15 - 25    ..    ..	0	4	0
25 and over    ..    ..	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	2	40	1
	==	==	==

Measles was the only disease notified in any numbers during the year. There were no cases of Diphtheria.

## IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

**Total number immunised to 31st December, 1945.**

<i>Age Year of Birth</i>	<i>Under 1 1945</i>	<i>1 1944</i>	<i>2 1943</i>	<i>3 1942</i>
	1	31	25	15
<i>Age Year of Birth</i>	<i>4 1941</i>	<i>5-9 1936-1940</i>	<i>10-14 1931-1935</i>	<i>Total under 15</i>
	3	320	332	727

### Numbers Immunised during 1945

<i>Age Year of Birth</i>	<i>Under 1 1945</i>	<i>1 1944</i>	<i>2 1943</i>	<i>3 1942</i>
	Nil	32	16	7
<i>Age Year of Birth</i>	<i>4 1941</i>	<i>5-9 1936-1940</i>	<i>10-14 1931-1935</i>	<i>Total</i>
	1	4	1	61

## TUBERCULOSIS

Only two cases were notified during the year, one Pulmonary and one Non-Pulmonary. Two deaths both Non-Pulmonary.

### Cases in Register at 31st December, 1945

<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
<i>Males</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
5	2	7	4	2	6

Total, 13







